

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY Austria/France/Switzerland/Germany

DATE DISTR. 20 JAN 50

SUBJECT Soviet Attempts to Obtain Drill Pipes from the West

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

1. USIA, Austria, has now entered into contracts with several firms including the Handelshaus Haselgruber of Vienna VIII, Lenaugasse 10. Handelshaus Haselgruber has been trying to obtain drill pipes and casings from Ing. Lothar Saxe of Munich, Schleissheimerstrasse 71. Under the Haselgruber contract the goods, if obtained, are to be shipped to the Soviet Sector of Berlin.
2. Meanwhile Alexander Abel and Peter Roth have been in Paris since the middle of October 1949 negotiating for the purchase of the drill pipes, casings, etc. from the General Engineering and Trading Company of 71 Champs Elysees, Paris, which is owned by a Jew of Egyptian origin named Maurice Bracka. Bracka has promised Abel he can obtain the required pipes and casings for him at a price which will allow the latter a net profit of 100,000 dollars, provided he can obtain the consent of the Soviets to the delivery of the goods f.o.b. Berlin (as in the Haselgruber contract) instead of c.i.f. Gdynia as at present provided by clause 3 of the Abel (Metallimport) contract.*
3. Mobilare Verkehrs A.G., Zurich, is selling to the Zistersdorf refineries through an unnamed Swiss firm the following equipment:
 - 800 tons drill pipes
 - 2,300 tons casings
 - 560 tons tubings

The casings are to be delivered from France, and a French export license is assured. The drill pipes and tubings are expected to come from Germany, and negotiations for a license are under way. Payment is to be made in dollars. Mobilare has asked the Société Générale de Surveillance to consider financing the deal.

25X1X **Comments:** It has previously been learned that Alexander Abel and his brother, Fritz, founded a Metallimport branch in Vaduz in order to help Metallimport, Zurich, purchase drill pipes and casings for USIA. Associated with them is Katrina Feller (formerly Baroness Perenyi) who may be sent to the US to purchase the equipment if the transactions in France are unsuccessful. Mrs. Feller, married to a Swiss diplomat stationed in Ankara, travels extensively on a Swiss diplomatic pass.

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